

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 constitute all currently pending claims in the application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-16, 21-23, 25 and 27-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. 2002/0075844 A1 to Hagen (“Hagen”) in view of U.S. Patent 6,408,336 to Schneider (“Schneider”). Applicant traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1

Without conceding on the patentability of unamended claim 1, Applicant amends claim 1 to recite, among other features, control means adapted to classify the terminals into a first group or a second group according to whether or not they establish an encrypted communication with said local area network. Applicant respectfully submits that Hagan and Schneider, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the above recited features of claim 1 for at least the following reasons.

In particular, Hagan merely discloses determining whether or not a mobile’s terminals MAC address is located in either the NAS’ local or IODS’ master database and accordingly permits or rejects network access to the mobile terminal based on the determination (see paragraph [0052] of Hagan). Nowhere does Hagan disclose or suggest that the terminals are classified into a first group or a second group according to whether or not they establish an encrypted communication with said local area network.

Further, Schneider discloses determining a trust level based on the strength of an encryption technique (col. 10, lines 19-21). Therefore, even if assuming *arguendo* that Schneider discloses multiple encryption techniques, a combination of Schneider and Hagan, at most, would suggest determining groups of terminals based on different encryption techniques. However, Hagan and Schneider, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least a “control means adapted to classify the terminals into a first group or a second group according to whether or not they establish an encrypted communication with said local area network”.

In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a processing server 10 classifies a mobile terminal in a first group if that mobile terminal established an encrypted communication with the local area network and classifies a mobile terminal in a second group if that mobile terminal established an unencrypted communication with the local area network (see page 9, line 31 to page 11, line 8). No such classification of a mobile terminal is disclosed or suggested by Hagan and Schneider, alone or in combination.

For at least the reasons submitted above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those submitted above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 28 is patentable.

Claims 2-16, 21-23, 25, 27 and 29-44, which depend from claims 1 or 28, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

Claims 17-20 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hagen in view of Schneider and Comer, “Internetworking with TCP/IP Vol. 1”.

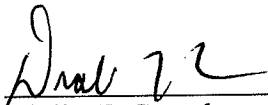
Comer does not make up for the above noted deficiencies of Hagan and Schneider with respect to independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 17-20 and 24, which depend from claim 1, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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